WHO IS HOMELESS

HOMELESSNESS KNOWS NO SEASON

5 EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP
Our Mission

We strive to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

In partnership with 30 local organizations we coordinate a centralized emergency shelter helpline, homelessness prevention programs, street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing solutions serving 13,000 people annually.

"We envision a community in which everyone has a stable home and the resources needed to maintain it."

Kevin Finn, President/CEO

Kevin began his career as a Street Outreach worker. Seeing the need for better coordination among our local homeless services he founded Strategies to End Homelessness in 2007. A native of Cincinnati, he holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from St. Louis University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Kentucky. He is available for all media requests, to share data, or meet with community groups. Email us info@end-homelessness.org.
Who is homeless? 2018 Homelessness Demographics Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Homelessness is defined as sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (such as on the streets, under a bridge, in a car), residing in an emergency shelter, or fleeing domestic violence.

Our homeless population is young. One quarter are children under 18, and more than half are under 35.

- 25% under age 18
- 36% under age 25
- 55% under age 35

7,306 people in 2013
Homelessness has declined by 3.7% since 2013
7,036 people in 2018

"Such declines in homelessness, however modest, are positive. However, our data indicate that there are also areas of significant concern."

African Americans make up the majority of our homeless population

- 62% black

Men make up the majority of our adult homeless population

- 64% male

544 Families slept on the street or in an emergency shelter in 2018
Who is homeless?
The current state of homelessness in Greater Cincinnati

From 7,197 people in 2017 to 7,036 people in 2018.

To simply state the number which most people’s eye is drawn to, in Hamilton County:

The number of people experiencing homelessness in 2018 declined by 2.2%.

From 7,197 people in 2017 to 7,036 people in 2018.

What does the data tell us?
The data indicates there was much more happening within the homeless services system than this small decline might indicate.

Regarding people unsheltered on the streets...
The issue of people experiencing homelessness sleeping unsheltered, outside on the streets, received a great deal of attention in the Greater Cincinnati media in 2018.

This fact, understandably, might give the impression that there are an increasing number of people sleeping on the streets.

Or that the Greater Cincinnati area has more people sleeping unsheltered than other cities, or that there are an increasing number of people experiencing homelessness in general. However, the data does not support these impressions.

Homelessness by Definition

Before we can talk about data regarding people experiencing homelessness, we must first define what homelessness means. For this purpose, we’ll be explaining data and trends regarding people who: 1) are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (such as on the streets, under a bridge, in a car), 2) residing in an emergency shelter, or 3) are fleeing domestic violence.
From 2013-2018, Hamilton County has seen a **43% decline in the number of people sleeping on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation**. While this decline was only 1.4% from 2017 to 2018, it continues a now 6 year trend.

In total, **13.7%** of Hamilton County's homeless population spent at least part of the year sleeping **unsheltered on the streets**.

Comparable statistics from other communities are sometimes difficult to find, but according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 34% of people experiencing homelessness sleep unsheltered nationwide.

Regarding the number of people entering emergency shelters...

The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and many others made significant investments in improving local homeless shelters between 2012 and 2015.

During those years, five new facilities opened intended to improve the level of services offered specifically to homeless single individuals, as called for in the Homeless to Homes Plan, which was authored by Strategies to End Homelessness and adopted by the Hamilton County Commission and Cincinnati City Council. The improved facilities are operated by the City Gospel Mission, Lighthouse Youth & Family Services, Shelterhouse and Talbert House.

The last of these five new facilities opened in 2015. The higher level of services offered within and overall improved living conditions contributed to an increase in the number of people entering shelters from 2014 to 2017 (6,273 people in 2014, 6,670 people in 2017). However, in 2018 this trend did not hold true, with shelters taking in **2.4% fewer individuals (6,509) in 2018 than in 2017**.

In 2018, **92.5%** of people sleeping in emergency shelter or unsheltered on the streets resided in an emergency shelter for at least part of the year, and as mentioned earlier, **the percentage of people sleeping unsheltered on the streets in Hamilton County was well below the national average**.

This is particularly important given the results of a study published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine in 2018. The 10 year study conducted in Boston found that **homeless adults who live and sleep outside are three times more likely to die than those who live in an emergency shelter**, and ten times more likely to die than the general population.

Therefore, in the battle to assist people experiencing homelessness, having fewer people on the streets and more people in shelters is an important first step.

Such declines in homelessness, however modest, are positive. However, our data indicate that there are also areas of significant concern.
From 2016-2018, the local homeless services system experienced a 15% decline in the number of people served in Shelter Diversion services (from 1,202 people in 2016, to 1,112 in 2017, and then 1,017 in 2018) largely due to reductions in funding from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and the City of Cincinnati.

However, the biggest problem with adequately funding homelessness prevention services is that the largest funder of services for people who are homeless, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provides millions of dollars a year to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, largely does not allow its funding to go toward homelessness prevention activities.

Shelter Diversion is the most cost-effective intervention available for reducing homelessness (at $1,250 per person to keep someone from becoming homeless, compared with $3,900 per person to assist after they are homeless) and

And Shelter Diversion has the best outcomes (with 15% of those served becoming homeless within 24 months, compared to 33% of those who enter emergency shelter, or 22% of those who were served in a supportive housing program).

Still, few resources go toward Shelter Diversion.

Should we spend

$3,900 to help someone out of homelessness
- or -
$1,250 to prevent it from happening in the first place?

Fewer cost effective prevention services...

Shelter Diversion services provided within the larger homeless services system are a perfect example of how the resources available to address homelessness do not necessarily align with interventions that can have the greatest impact.

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Fewer people served in Permanent Housing programs...

One exit strategy for people experiencing homelessness is to enter a permanent housing program (either Rapid Re-housing or Permanent Supportive Housing) which will assist them into housing, as well as provide a rental subsidy and supportive services for a period of time to help them become self-sufficient.

Due to a number of factors, including increasing funding from HUD and the VA, the number of people experiencing homelessness who have been able to be served in such permanent housing programs has increased every year going back over a decade. However, in 2018, the number of people experiencing homelessness that were able to be served in Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing declined by 5.6% (from 5,835 people in 2017 to 5,507 in 2018).

This decrease can be partially explained by the closing of two Veterans Administration funded programs, and a reduction in capacity by one HUD-funded agency, but what we really need is to see the number of people served in such programs increasing, not decreasing.

Families unable to access needed services...

Families at risk or in need of shelter call the Central Access Point (CAP) helpline, and are screened for placement into an emergency shelter or into Shelter Diversion services.

Through this process, in 2018, 544 families were provided with emergency shelter by Hamilton County’s four family shelter operators (Bethany House Services, the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, Salvation Army and the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati), and an additional 243 families were provided with Shelter Diversion services.

However, we know that these numbers do not tell the full story of the need among at risk families in our community.

CAP helpline data show that of the families that reached out for assistance, 8% were placed into Shelter Diversion services, 17% were placed into an emergency shelter, and 56% were turned away without any assistance. Clearly, there are many more families in need in our community that would have entered services if space had been available for them.
5 Easy Ways You Can Help

We're often asked "How can I help people experiencing homelessness?"
Here are a few ideas

1. If you're reading this you're already helping! We work each day to dispel myths and share facts about homelessness here in Cincinnati. Thank you for taking the time to learn more!

2. Then share this information with friends and family. We are also happy to speak to groups about our work. Interested? Just send us an email info@end-homelessness.org.

3. Volunteer! Volunteers are needed all year-round - not just during the holiday season! For current opportunities at our partner agencies go to bit.ly/STEHVolunteer.

4. Be our eyes and ears. Download the Street Reach App - [Android] or [iPhone] - and send real-time information on people in need to our outreach teams.

5. Donate. Consider a financial donation to our organization and be assured your generosity will directly impact our neighbors in need. Thank you!
We believe the key to reducing homelessness is to prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless in the first place.

What is "CAP"?

The Central Access Point Helpline (CAP) 381-SAFE was one of the first helplines of its kind in the nation, connecting people in crisis with shelter diversion, housing, or emergency shelter placement.

Before CAP, families had to make multiple calls to multiple shelters and agencies to get help. Now our clients begin their journey to hope and stability with one call to CAP.

Those experiencing homelessness – or about to be – can count on us in a time of crisis, 7 days a week.

How It Works

Our trained Intake Specialists determine if a caller is in immediate need of emergency shelter or if a program or service we provide can prevent them from becoming homeless.

CAP can place households into three family shelters, two single men's shelters, a single women's shelter, a youth shelter, a transitional housing program, a Supportive Services for Veterans Families program, four Veteran's Administration Programs and five Shelter Diversion programs.

Who's calling?

4,187 neighbors in need called CAP in 2018 and 1,863 callers were placed into a safe shelter or an appropriate program.

Families & Children

Many callers were families with children. In 2018 544 families slept on the street or in emergency shelter. A quarter of our homeless population are children under age 18.

Veterans

CAP Intake Specialists spoke with 620 Veteran callers and made 674 unique referrals to appropriate Veterans’ programs to prevent and end Veteran homelessness.

And we can help more Veterans each year thanks to the "Grant Per Diem" Housing Program from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Youth

Nearly 20% of all callers were Youth between the ages of 18-24. Services, like CAP, which divert at-risk youth from becoming homeless are life-changing.
Winter Shelter
As a community, we need to ensure everyone has a place where they can come in from the cold during the winter.

Our partners at Shelterhouse make the Winter Shelter possible, providing 200 additional shelter beds for men and women during the coldest months of the year.

Here's who was helped by Winter Shelter thanks to our generous supporters.

Winter 2017
76 nights
733 individuals
8,354 bed nights

Winter 2018
73 nights
763 individuals
8,351 bed nights

Learn more at: wintershelter.org

Summer Shelter
More families become homeless in summer than any other time of year. Often families with unstable housing stay with family or friends when school is in session. Once school ends they're often asked to leave, with no place to go.

The Summer Shelter goals are to add extra capacity – beds, hotel rooms, apartments – to keep children from having to experience the trauma of unsheltered homelessness.

While in shelter, families are connected to services to assist them into stable housing.

Our thanks to Bethany House Services and the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati for providing this vital service.

Here's who was helped by Summer Shelter thanks to our generous supporters.

Summer 2017
123 individuals
98 children

Summer 2018
156 individuals
110 children

Homelessness Knows No Season
At times of peak demand we raise the money needed for additional temporary shelter capacity. For two critical reasons: so that fewer people are outside during the coldest months of winter and so that families can access shelter in summer when family homelessness spikes.

Follow our progress: www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn
Our Partners

Collaboration and partnerships are at the cornerstone of our work. We work with more than 30 different homeless services organizations in Greater Cincinnati. Our job, in part, is to ensure our partner agencies have the tools, training, and funding they need to effectively serve people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

As a Unified Funding Agency appointed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we apply for, receive, allocate, and monitor the effective use of Federal, State, County, and City funding to end homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.

Our Financials
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Thank you

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Our Community Partners

84.51
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Blue Tide Partners
Centric Consulting
Cincinnati Center City Development Corp.
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati Film Commission
Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority
Cincinnati Union Bethel
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport
Cincinnatus Association
City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development
CityLink Center
Coldwell Banker
Cradle Cincinnati
Crossroads Church
Dohn Community School
Downtown Cincinnati, Inc.
Hamilton County Jobs & Family Services
Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
Horizon Community Fund
Human Services Chamber
Hyperquake

LISC
Lydia's House
Magnified Giving
Mary Magdalene House
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
New Life Furniture Bank
Northern Kentucky Safety Net Alliance
Northern Kentucky University
Ohio Developmental Services Administration
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Ohio Human Services Data Warehouse
P&G Foundation
Presbytery of Cincinnati
Prince of Peace Lutheran
Rotary Club of Cincinnati
Saint Ursula Academy
St. Agnes Church
St. Benedict’s Homeless Shelter
St. Xavier High School
The Irish Table
The Jeff Ruby Foundation
The Office of Senator Rob Portman
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
The University of Cincinnati
UC Medical Center
Xavier University School of Social Work

The Public Film
Thank you to Emilio Estevez and entire cast and crew of "The Public" for bringing awareness to the issue of homelessness.

Our Media Partners
Thank you to our media partners who address difficult subjects with grace, always striving to report the true facts of homelessness.

700 WLW
Cincinnati CityBeat
Local12
Soapbox Cincinnati
The Associated Press
The Enquirer
The News Record
WCPO
WLWT
WVXU
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Bob Scripps Community Fund
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PNC Foundation
Robert A. & Marian K. Kennedy Charitable Trust
Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Foundation
The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation
The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation
The George and Margaret McLane Foundation
The Maxwell C. Weaver Foundation
Thomas J. Emery Memorial
U.S. Bank Foundation
Union Savings Bank/Guardian Savings Bank
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
William P. Anderson Foundation
Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation

Our Donors

Thank you for providing opportunity and hope. Your generosity makes all the difference to help house our homeless neighbors. We are honored to partner with you to end homelessness.
### Financials

*Audit Report not yet issued as of publication
Audited Financials will be available at strategiesendhomelessness.org

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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Program**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management/General</td>
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<th>Revenues and Support</th>
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<td>Government grants</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
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<th>Activities Highlights</th>
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<td>Revenues and Support</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<th>Assets</th>
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Strategies to End Homelessness is funded in part by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The State of Ohio, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and is a United Way of Greater Cincinnati Agency Partner.

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, we are proud to be a BBB Accredited Charity and hold the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.